

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprising:

an image forming apparatus body; and

~~at least one postprocessing unit~~ a single-sheet processing machine selectively attached thereto ~~among a plurality of types of attachable postprocessing units~~ to the image forming body and configured to attach another postprocessing unit at a downstream side,

~~wherein said at least one postprocessing unit is a single-sheet processing machine for postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet and wherein the single-sheet processing machine has a plurality of types of single-sheet processing functions of postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet~~ mechanisms including a punching unit configured to punch sheets in units of a sheet, a folding unit configured to fold sheets in units of a sheet, a perforator configured to perforate sheets in units of a sheet, and a cutter configured to cut sheets in units of a sheet, and

the single-sheet processing machine includes a sheet attachment function unit configured to attach ~~of attaching~~ a cover sheet or an insert sheet to an output sheet bulk.

2. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 1, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has all single-sheet processing functions

~~of postprocessing mechanisms configured to post-process~~ sheet in units of a sheet as performed by the image forming system.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 1, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a single-sheet processing carry-in unit for receiving a sheet conveyed from the image forming apparatus body and a single-sheet processing carry-out unit for discharging the sheet to any other postprocessing unit, wherein the single-sheet processing machine is directly attached to the image forming apparatus body without intervention of any other postprocessing unit.

5. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 1, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has ~~[[a]]~~ the punching unit ~~for punching sheet in units of a sheet~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ the folding unit ~~for folding sheet in units of a sheet~~, the folding unit arranged on the downstream side of the punching unit in the sheet conveying direction.

6. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 1,
wherein said single-sheet processing machine includes:
a single-sheet processing carry-in unit for receiving a sheet conveyed from said image forming apparatus body;

a single-sheet processing carry-out unit for discharging the sheet to any other postprocessing unit;

a first processing unit for postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet;

a second processing unit for postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet, the second processing unit arranged on the downstream side of the first processing unit in the sheet conveying direction;

a first conveying path for conveying the sheet received by the single-sheet processing carry-in unit to the single-sheet processing carry-out unit without intervention of the first processing unit and the second processing unit;

a second conveying path for conveying the sheet received by the single-sheet processing carry-in unit to the first processing unit;

a third conveying path for conveying the sheet from the first processing unit to said second processing unit; and

a fourth conveying path for conveying the sheet from the second processing unit to the first conveying path.

7. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 6, wherein the third conveying path of said single-sheet processing machine has a third A conveying path for conveying a sheet having a length no more than a predetermined length in the sheet feeding direction to the second processing unit and a third B conveying path for conveying a sheet having a length more than the predetermined length in the sheet feeding direction to the second processing unit.

8. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 6, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has ~~a sheet attachment unit for placing cover sheets or insert sheets attached by the sheet attachment function and~~ a fifth conveying path for conveying the cover sheets or the insert sheets from the sheet attachment unit to the first conveying path.

9. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 8, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a branching portion where the conveying path branches out into the first conveying path and the second conveying path on the downstream side of the single-sheet processing carry-in unit in the sheet conveying direction and a joining portion where the fifth conveying path joins the first conveying path on the upstream side of the branching portion in the sheet conveying direction.

10. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 6, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a single-sheet processing discharge unit for discharging remaining sheets in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition and a sixth conveying path for conveying sheets from the first conveying path to the single-sheet processing discharge unit.

11. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising an edge stapling machine, ~~which is one of said plurality of types of~~

~~postprocessing units, configured to bind~~ for binding a sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets at an edge thereof,

wherein said edge stapling machine has an edge stapling carry-in unit for receiving sheets conveyed from ~~said image forming apparatus body~~ the single-sheet processing machine or from any other postprocessing unit; ~~and~~

~~wherein, if said single-sheet processing machine and said edge stapling machine are selectively attached, and~~ the edge stapling machine is attached ~~[[on]]~~ at the downstream side of said single-sheet processing machine in the sheet conveying direction.

12. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 11, wherein said edge stapling machine has at least one of a ~~stapling function~~ stapler of stapling the sheet bulk, a tape binder ~~function~~ of tape-binding the sheet bulk, and a pasting ~~function~~ binder of pasting the sheet bulk, for the edge binding of the sheet bulk.

13. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 11, wherein said edge stapling machine has an open discharge unit for discharging the sheet bulk made of a plurality of bound sheets at the side of the image forming ~~apparatus~~ system, and is attachable in the most downstream of the image forming system in the sheet conveying direction.

14. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 11, wherein said edge stapling machine has an edge stapling discharge unit for discharging remaining sheets

in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition.

15. (Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising a center stitching machine, ~~which is one of said plurality of types of postprocessing units,~~ for folding and stitching a sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets,

wherein said center stitching machine has a center stitching carry-in unit, ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive sheets conveyed from the single-sheet processing machine or any other postprocessing unit attached ~~[[on]]~~ at the upstream side in the sheet conveying direction₁ and a center stitching carry-out unit, ~~for conveying~~ configured to convey sheets to any other postprocessing unit attached ~~[[on]]~~ at the downstream side in the sheet conveying direction₁,~~[[;]]~~ and

~~wherein, if said single-sheet processing machine and said center stitching machine are selectively attached,~~ said center stitching machine is attached ~~[[on]]~~ at the downstream side of said single-sheet processing machine in the sheet conveying direction.

16. (Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein said center stitching machine has a stapling ~~function~~ mechanism configured to stitch ~~for stitching~~ a sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets.

17. (Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein said center stitching machine has a folding ~~function~~ unit configured to fold ~~for folding~~ a

stitched sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets and a sheet ~~cutting function~~ trimmer configured to cut ~~for cutting~~ a folded sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets.

18. (Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein said center stitching machine has a center stitching discharge unit configured to discharge ~~for discharging~~ remaining sheets in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition.

19. (Original) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein said center stitching machine has a center-stitched sheet stacking unit where a center-stitched sheet bulk is placed and which is movable relative to the center stitching machine body.

20. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising a case binding machine, ~~which is one of said plurality of types of postprocessing units,~~ configured to case-bind ~~for case-binding~~ a sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets with a cover sheet,

~~wherein, if said single sheet processing machine and said case binding machine are selectively attached,~~ said case binding machine is attached ~~[[on]]~~ at the downstream side of said single-sheet processing machine in the sheet conveying direction.

21. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a pasting function unit of pasting the sheet bulk or a stapling ~~function~~ unit of binding the sheet bulk.

22. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a case-bound sheet cutting ~~function~~ unit configured to cut ~~for cutting~~ the case-bound sheet bulk.

23. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a case binding discharge unit for discharging remaining sheet in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition.

24. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a case-bound sheet stacking unit where a case-bound sheet bulk is placed and which is movable relative to the case binding machine body.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn — Currently Amended) A single-sheet processing machine which is attachable to an image forming apparatus body and is configured to attach another postprocessing unit at a downstream side, having a plurality of ~~types of single-sheet processing functions for postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet~~ mechanisms including a punching unit configured to punch sheets in units of a sheet, a folding unit configured to fold sheets in units of a sheet, a perforator configured to perforate sheets in units of a sheet, and a cutter configured to cut sheets in units of a sheet, and a sheet attachment ~~function~~ unit configured to attach ~~of attaching~~ a cover sheet or an insert sheet to an output sheet bulk.